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TURNER

A shipshape admiral

By JACK ROBBINS

Adm. Stansfield Turner, President Carter's nominee to head the CIA, is a man with a number of reputations.

One is as a scholar. He graduated 25th in his class at the Naval Academy, won a Rhodes Scholarship, got an advanced degree from Oxford, and then earned another at the Harvard Business School. For two years he was president of the Naval War College, and he has often written for such publications as Foreign Affairs.

His is, it is said, a natural leader. He was president of his class at Amherst and Brigade Commander at Annapolis. Yesterday, Carter compared him to Gen. George Marshall. Carter also said of his old classmate at Annapolis, "He was so far ahead of us that we never considered him competition, or even a peer."

He is also said to be a hard worker, and a stern administrator.

Last, but possibly not least, he has the reputation of one who will be easily confirmed by the Senate. After the debacle of the designation and subsequent with-

drawal of Theodore Sorensen, Carter aides have said that the President was eager to find a nominee who would arouse little opposition.

So far Turner is doing fine. Sens. Adlai Stevenson (D-Ill.) and Joseph R. Biden Jr. (D-Del.) both members of the Intelligence Committee, have said that they see no problem for Turner's confirmation. Other key Senators were notified of the nomination before it was announced and presumably raised no objections.

Stansfield Turner was born on Dec. 1, 1923, in the wealthy Chicago suburb of Highland Park, Ill., the son of Oliver Stansfield and Josephine Wagner Turner. His father was a real estate man.

Turner entered Amherst in 1941, and enrolled in the Naval Reserve program there. He played football as well as being active in student politics.

In 1943 he transferred to the Naval Academy, where he was also on the football team. He played left guard.

After graduation he applied for a Rhodes Scholarship, as did a classmate named Carter. Turner got his, Carter didn't.

After Oxford he was assigned to destroyers and served off the coast of Korea during that war, earning a

Bronze Star. A variety of sea-duty posts followed, as did two tours of duty at the Pentagon and another degree, in management, from Harvard.

In 1968 he commanded the guided missile frigate USS Horne off the coast of Vietnam.

In 1972 he was named president of the War College, in Newport, R.I.

When Turner arrived the College had the reputation of a "country club" where an officer could expect to spend a pleasant vacation should he be assigned there.

Turner changed that in a hurry, old colleagues remember.

He instituted examinations, quintupled reading assignments, and increased writing assignments. He revamped the entire curriculum.

"There was a great gnashing of teeth from the old guard," recalls a man who was there at the time. "A lot of problems could have been avoided if the admiral had done a little stroking. But the admiral isn't much good at stroking."

After leaving the War College he was named commander of the Second Fleet, where he often conducted surprise inspections of ships under his command, arriving unannounced by helicopter.

In 1975 he was appointed commander of NATO forces in Southern Europe, a post he still holds.

Inside the Navy, Turner has been criticized for not pressing hard enough for construction of more warships, particularly carriers, to counter the Soviet naval buildup.

To Turner, how many ships isn't all that important.

As he wrote recently in Foreign Affairs, "A sensible approach will be to ask not 'Who is ahead?' but to determine whether our naval forces in hand, considering the other forces on the planet, can carry out our national purpose."

Turner was married in 1953 to Patricia Busby Whitney. They have two married children, Geoffrey and Laura.

Turner is a jogger, a swimmer and plays, according to his friends, "an aggressive game of tennis."